

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stairlift chair including a pair of armrests, each of the said armrests having an upper arm support surface; and a hand control mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest on which the hand control is mounted about a substantially vertical pivot axis to effect movement of a stairlift on which the stairlift chair is mounted, wherein said hand control is, in normal use, angled upwardly out of a plane defined by the upper surface of the armrest to which said hand control is attached, said hand control having a substantially planar palm contacting surface which is positioned in relation to ~~forms a substantial extension of~~ the plane of said upper surface of the armrest to which said hand control is mounted to enable a palm and arm of a user to be supported simultaneously when the user is operating said hand control through contact between the user's palm and said palm contacting surface.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said hand control has side surfaces aligned substantially perpendicularly to said palm contacting surface.

5. (Currently amended) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one of said armrests has a longitudinal axis, the position of said hand control ~~interface~~ being adjustable along said longitudinal axis.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein said hand control comprises a power isolation switch.

8. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The stairlift chair of claim 1, where the hand control further comprises side surfaces projecting downwardly from said palm contacting surface, said side surfaces configured to permit smooth contact by the side of a user's hand.

11. (Previously presented) The stairlift chair of claim 1, wherein said palm contacting surface is constructed and arranged to underlie at least 50% of the area of a user's palm.

12. (Previously presented) A stairlift comprising a stairlift chair, said chair having a pair of armrests; a manually engageable and displaceable hand control mounted on one of said armrests and being displaceable with respect to the armrest on which it is mounted to effect movement of said stairlift, said hand control including a body member engageable by a user's hand wherein said body member is formed in two parts which are displaceable with respect to one another such that, in a first configuration of said two parts, said hand control is inactive.

13. (Previously presented) A stairlift as claimed in claim 12 wherein, when said body parts are in said first configuration, the resulting form of said body differs visually and/or provides a different tactile sensation to the user's hand than when said body parts are in an operative configuration.

14. (canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A stairlift chair as claimed in claim 1 wherein a sensor is provided to sense when a user is occupying said chair, said sensor being further operable to isolate and energise said hand operated control.

16- 21. (Canceled)